



**COUNTY OF PLACER  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

**JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Patricia Beard	Larry Jordan
James Brenner	William Morebeck
Patrick Bollinger	John Nitta
Rich Ferreira	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

11477 E AVENUE  
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603  
TELEPHONE: (530) 889-7372  
FAX: (530) 823-1698  
[www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov)

**MINUTES**

**PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

**Members Present:** Patricia Beard, Rich Ferreira, Larry Jordan, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

**Members Absent:** Patrick Bollinger, James Brenner, William Morebeck

---

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 pm by Wayne Vineyard**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR, NOVEMBER 13, 2017 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2017.** Motion to approve: *Perry / Ferreira / MPUV*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT –**  
None

**IV. INFORMATION ITEM**

**DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL UPDATES TO WILLIAMSON ACT POLICY –** Williamson Act Special Committee as appointed August 14, 2017 – Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner

Josh introduced Alex Fisch from Placer County Planning Dept as a good source to guide the process of reviewing/clarifying guidelines in existing ordinance to determine need for clarification vs revision.

Notes from committee meetings of Sept 7, 2017 and November 1, 2017 were distributed, reviewed and discussed.

Points to focus on going forward:

- Refine intensity range and value
- Infrastructure requirements
- Auditing
- Contract splits – (may resolve when discussing above items)

Committee will meet again, include Cindy Fake and, if available, Alex Fisch.

**V. REPORTS**

**A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger**

- Farm and Barn tour experienced its largest attendance so far. 2000 attended with 15 farms participating
- Mandarin Season open. Lots of media coverage: Sacramento area local news and CBS Good Morning.
- PlacerGrown began promotions in October and will continue to promote other crops post festival

- New Crop Report features new design. Most interesting change: Timber dropped out of the top five to be replaced by poultry.
- Winter project – 5 more videos coming. Just finished the Timber crop video which will release in about 1 week. Next series theme is “Legacy” featuring interviews from historic Placer County farming and ranching families..

**B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey**

- Absent
- Josh Huntsinger noted the meat processing plant continues. Initial farmers are winding down with new interests emerging. There may be a change regard incorporation and a new BOD.
- Dan Macon states the restructure is about the acknowledgement of costs, project management and fund raising. Less about infrastructure because that part has been made clear. Plans still moving slowly forward.

**C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Dan Macon**

- 2+ inches of rain at beginning of season followed by abundant sunshine equals plenty of green grass and forage for livestock.
- First confirmed kill of cattle by wolf occurred in Lassen County in October 2017. Wolves are expected to recover at least as far south as I-80. Prevention efforts will really depend on economic impact. Producers would do well to focus on:
  - New livestock protection tools
  - Managing livestock predator conflicts
  - Rice straw/Forage
  - Early weaning experiments
  - Disaster planning for large scale producers of livestock

**D. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake**

Cindy presented the upcoming farming workshops as well as producer’s workshops

Mandarins in season. Research project has shown overhead watering will not work if canopy is dense. High Acidity can grow citrus if using a large amount of organic mulch/matter.

Farmer to Farmer potluck focused on creating standard operating procedures (SOP), Succession Planning, etc. Many reported implementation of suggestions. UC Extension is considering a formal class on the subject possibly in February 2018. Fires were also an impetus.

**E. Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger**

- NID Report: As of November 13, 2017 NID had 189,100 AF storage, which is 71% of total capacity and 126% of average. Storage has increased about 5,000 AF since the end of the irrigation season. Precipitation was 8.3 inches; 90% of average for this date; no snow so far, based on the forecast maybe some snow later this week.
- PCWA rate increase due to contract with PG&E expiring and rates have increased from \$2.00 to \$40.00 AF, increasing over time. Rates for commercial ag and untreated will be consolidated into untreated. All zones are now zone 6. Meeting held last week – Previous zone 5 contained approximately one dozen ag

sites. Looking at rates to determine sustainability. Placer County and PCWA in discussion. Rate increase will be anywhere from 40% (Foothills) to 90% (West Placer).

**VI. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS – Josh Huntsinger**

- Citrus: State looking to switch from current quarantine using current criteria, to regional. Possible to change from measurements based on pest finds to county boundaries, creating more requirements for shipping out of area. Region 7 (includes Placer County) includes counties that have had detections of the insect but no disease. Bulk citrus shipments will be most affected. Placer growers generally pack on-site. Lincoln find was 1 year ago – no eradication plan, yet.
- Pesticide use near schools updated. Soil fumigations, air blast, aerial, and air sprayers are limited to outside the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Growers within one-quarter mile must submit usage to schools – outreach plan in progress. There are a few affected schools in Placer County. Pesticide applications on school farms are already regulated, this is a new regulation.
- Monday morning meeting on November 20 regarding large animal evacuations and needs for commercial livestock. Meeting will include OES. Teams are optimistic about putting a plan in place.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT– 8:30 p.m.**

Next meeting January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.